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Culture in the residence halls

BREAKING THE
STEREOTYPES

SCHUYLER STERK
ENGLISH TEACHING

While each dorm on campus has a unique community within it, it's no secret each hall has its own quirks, traditions and cultures. Along with these differences comes the tendency to create dorm stereotypes, but in each residence hall, there is more to dorm life than meets the eye.

Colenbrander, known almost exclusively as Coly, is typically seen as the "sports dorm" of the male residence halls. Statistically that may be true, but there is a lot more to life in Coly than just participating in collegiate athletics. Resident director Cody Hughes says life in Coly is "fun, challenging and impactful," among other things. Some of his favorite memories aren't necessarily distinct moments but more often just evenings filled with friends.

"I love to play games in my apartment," he said. "In addition to the fun stuff, it is hard not to think about all the conversations that I have had with my guys in my apartment."

From game nights to practical jokes to Coly Christmas, friendly competition and genuine connection can be found everywhere in Colenbrander Hall.

Fern Smith is sometimes said by students to be a mellow dorm filled with socially awkward girls who are welcoming and accepting of everyone. Despite the exaggerations of Fern's social awkwardness, it is true that Fern residents experience a rich dorm community focused on extending a welcome to everyone who sets foot in the building.

"Living in Fern is a ton of fun," resident assistant Kaitlyn Hassman said. "Some nights it feels like a big old sleepover."

At any moment, one can find a Fern friend who is eager for a good chat, a study date or a spontaneous adventure. Hassman shares further



PHOTO COURTESY OF NW MARCOMM
Students walking to class engage in conversation.

how her time in Fern has helped her grow while at college. "I have learned so much by living alongside people who challenge me, encourage me and bring out my best," she said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Jeff and Karen Barker retire from NW

COUPLE HAD
LASTING IMPACT

RACHEL SMART
ENGLISH TEACHING

Goodbyes are a natural part of college. Faculty and staff come and go, and at the end of the year, students graduate and move on. However, the constant presence of goodbyes does not make saying them any easier, and many students and faculty at Northwestern are preparing themselves for a particularly bittersweet farewell: Karen and Jeff Barker will be retiring at the end of the spring semester.

The theatre department was affected by recent cuts to faculty and academic programs. The Barkers have had a fruitful career during their 32 years at NW. Both have directed numerous productions, Karen has acted in many shows and Jeff has written many plays produced by NW. Between the two of them, they have taught classes on top-

ics consisting of film criticism, playwrighting, acting, worship arts, theater senior seminar and more. Jeff has been a faithful director of the school's Drama Ministries Ensemble for many years and the chair of the theatre department, while Karen has been the dean of arts and humanities for some time. Greater than any of these on-paper accomplishments, however, is the impact they have had on their students.

The Barkers' sacrificial and wholehearted love for their students is obvious in all they do.

"Jeff and Karen teach our students grace by example," said NW theatre alum Becky Donahue, colleague and friend of the Barkers. "They open their hearts and home to them without hesitation."

Current students also cite numerous examples of ways the Barkers have guided and loved them.

"Without [Karen's] affirmation I would have never



PHOTO BY ALYSSA GLANZ
Jeff and Karen Barker retire from the theatre department after a total of 32 years.

stepped foot on stage as an actor again," said Wyatt Waage, who took Karen's acting class and starred in two one-act plays last semester.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

“Birds of Prey” forgets “Suicide Squad”

MOVIE REVIEW

ROBBIE SHINES IN LEAD ROLE

MATTHEW AGULIAR
PSYCHOLOGY

“Birds of Prey” is a continuation of Harley Quinn’s adventures from the mostly forgotten film “Suicide Squad.” Margot Robbie plays the infamous Harley Quinn from DC Comics in this follow-up adaptation, but most viewers who have seen “Suicide Squad” will believe “Birds of Prey” is a reboot for the DC Extended Universe. Ironically, James Gunn who directed all of the “Gaurdians of the Galaxy” movies is the director of “The Suicide Squad” coming to theaters next year, which is also meant to serve as a reboot for any characters introduced in the previous installment. As audiences will notice in this film, Robbie stands out among the cast, but there isn’t a dud performance as everyone pulls their weight to make this film a success. Ewan McGregor plays a lesser known villain from the

comic world named Black Mask and save one of the best villain performances made in the past years. McGregor’s character uses a dark-humored script to improve the character’s lack of recognition in films and comics. “Birds of Prey” also deals with deep topics found in today’s modern world, and McGregor’s character brings up sexual assault along with Robbie who was the victim in one scene. Robbie has been the victim in another movie focusing on sexual assault as she played a news reporter in “Bombshell,” which allowed her to play the same role in “Birds of Prey.” Besides this issue, Robbie and McGregor use playful banter to one up each other which makes the film more entertaining to watch. The film wouldn’t be what it is without its spectacular supporting cast included Rosie Perez who plays a detective named Renee Montoya and Ella Jay Basco, a child actor, who plays

a young Cassandra Cain. Another supporting character to mention is Mary Elizabeth Winstead who plays Huntress and is known in the comic book film industry from her role as Ramona Flowers in “Scott Pilgrim vs. The World.” Winstead’s character experienced a traumatic event as a child that made it her goal to become an assassin, and a pretty good one too. Perez’s character adds an 80’s feel to the film referencing old 80’s cop films. Basco’s character plays a pick-pocket in foster care, which is another deep topic the movie addresses - how not all foster homes have been beneficial to the youth of America. Basco’s character receives some guidance from Jurnee Smollett-Bell’s character Dinah Lance/Black Canary who has a soft spot for the kid and also a killer voice that works for Black Mask in order to make money. “Birds of Prey” would not succeed, however, without its exhilarating fight scenes

in between dialogue that are packed with punches and slow motion stunts. These stunts add to the fun and also pace the fight scenes and the overall film to keep audiences engaged. Another thing that helps propel this film into the elite of the DC Comics film franchise is its soundtrack. Songs ranging from true realities like “It’s a Man’s World” sung by Smollett-Bell’s character to bangers such as “Barracuda” from Heart. Overall, “Birds of Prey” is a film that will entertain many with its star-studded cast and thrilling fight scenes. This film also shows that even a comic book film can bring to light troubling issues such as sexual assault and foster care. With excitement for audiences wanting a stand-alone Huntress and Black Canary film, “Birds of Prey” puts together a group of women that work well together when they want to. Robbie headlines this film with such charisma that it’s hard not to want to go see this film a second time.

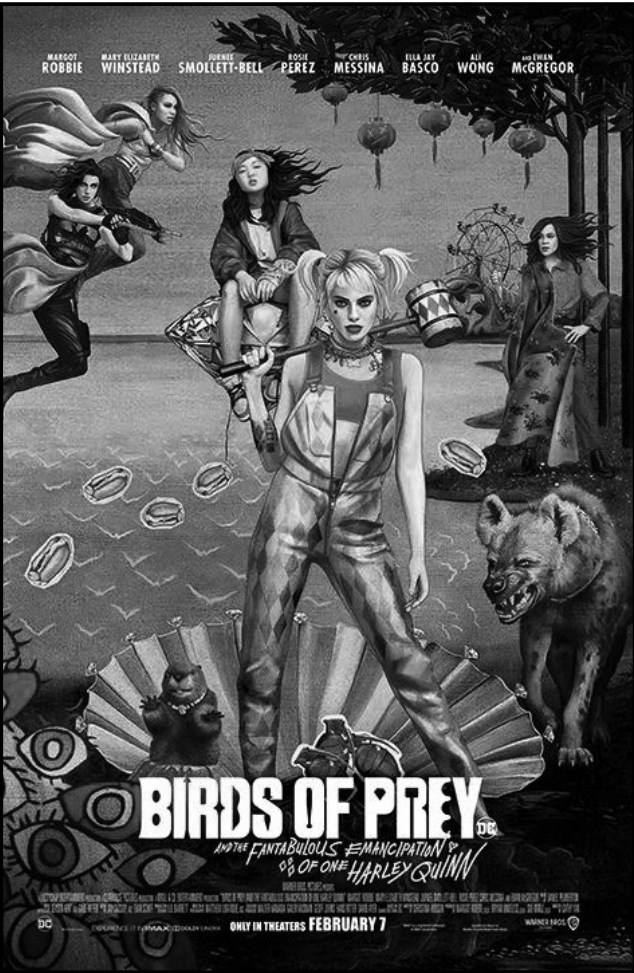


PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

★★★★

Justin Bieber’s “Changes” tops charts

MUSIC REVIEW

SMOOTH ALBUM SOOTHES THE SOUL

RACHEL SMART
THEATRE

This past Valentine’s Day, Justin Bieber released his first album in five years, titled “Changes.” The album contains 16 songs and one remix of his new single “Yummy” and has recently taken the #1 spot on the Billboard 200. This makes Bieber now the youngest artist to have seven albums reach #1 on the charts; the previous record holder had been Elvis Presley. “Changes” takes a turn into a relaxing R&B vibe with a hint of electro that’s so dreamy yet consistent that the songs almost blend together. Most of the tracks aren’t too different from each other, except a few with featured artists like Quavo, Post Malone, Lil Dicky and others. With this lack of variance combined with the chill genre, the album creates an almost perfect atmosphere for a lowkey hang out or study session. The lyrical material of

“Changes” also has little variance. The entire album is centered on Bieber’s new wife Hailey Baldwin, and each song is either about their love for each other, their sex life or the refuge Bieber finds in his bride. This last subject is fairly subtle, but nevertheless a consistent enough theme in the album to be worth mentioning. The opening track of the album, “All Around Me” seems to focus on Bieber’s need for his wife to be near and support him as he repeats over and over “I need you all around me.” Later in the album, “E.T.A” finds Bieber ruminating on when Baldwin will arrive home. These hints of a need for his spouse, which he says run deeper than normal love between a husband and wife, is an example of the darkness that flits in and out of the album and only fully manifests briefly in a few songs at the end. “Changes” corresponds with a YouTube docuseries titled “Seasons” in which Bieber discusses his struggles and the consequences of his early success in the music industry. Finding fame early in

life meant being introduced to substance abuse and intense stress among other issues that Bieber has only recently begun to work on addressing. Recently he has gotten sober from his drug addictions, has taken time to acknowledge his physical health problems like Lyme disease and is working on his mental health problems. In the title track of the album “Changes,” Bieber reveals the inner turmoil he has faced wrestling with these demons stating, “Sometimes I’ll go to sleep early // Sometimes I can’t close my eyes // Sometimes I smile like it’s all good // Even though there’s pain underneath it,” and “At Least For Now” seems to portray Bieber feeling intense disappointment and negative emotions but being forced to ignore them given his circumstances. Clearly, Bieber is coming to terms with the pain in his life and letting it pour over into his music, but it’s a pity that this truth only appears in a few of the 17 tracks on the album. Instances like these feel real, raw and healing compared to the empty repetition and awkward lyrical choices



PHOTO COURTESY OF JUSTINBIEBERMUSIC.COM

of “Yummy” and sex-filled lyrics of “Take It Out on Me.” Even the musical composition of the various tracks becomes more original with “At Least for Now” including a simple yet moving piano chord progression among bits of guitar and electronic sound effects.

This being said, healing is different for everyone and so is change. Radical change in an industry as powerful as the music industry is a difficult and delicate matter, so perhaps expecting Bieber to take a leap in one album is a stretch. As a musician, Bieber isn’t

exactly known for deep dives into the psyche or raw emotional truth, but he might be taking a slow transition toward more music that discusses deeper topics. As he says in his title track: “I’m going through changes.”

★★★

Hayes reflects on four years of theater at NW

THE FINAL BOW

ALLISON WHEELER
GRAPHIC DESIGN

“The reason I like our [theater] department is because of the people here and the beauty we create together,” said senior Corrie Hayes when reflecting on her time spent in Northwestern’s theatre department. Hayes is not only a theatre major, but also a business marketing major with an arts administration minor.

Hayes grew up in Marshalltown, Iowa and has been acting and singing since a young age.

Some of her first memories involve being on stage. While growing up, Hayes was involved in theater productions through her community, school and church. However, she started focusing more on the arts in high school and was heavily involved in extracurricular activities that incorporated the arts.

Originally, Hayes thought she wanted to be a math teacher, but eventually realized she didn’t like math that much and didn’t have a real desire to be a teacher. She started thinking about theater as more than a hobby and seeing it as a possibility for a career path.

When it came to choosing a college and theatre department, Hayes didn’t seriously consider NW because both of her parents were once students here and she wasn’t sure if she wanted to follow the same path. It wasn’t until after she met theater professors Jeff and Karen Barker during a campus visit that she started considering NW. She was intrigued by how the theatre department here combined Christianity and theater.

“I wanted to learn in a place where I could learn theater and be a Christian,” said Hayes.

While here at NW, Hayes has played a role in several shows that the theatre department has produced. She played the unicorn in “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe;” Liz, Mira and Kate in “Museum;” Diana in “Next to Normal;” Belinda Blair/Flavia Brent in “Noises Off;” Siobhan in “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime;” and Mama Murphy in “Bright Star.” Hayes’ final role on stage here at NW will be as Rosaline in “Love’s Labour’s Lost” which premieres on April 17.

Hayes’ favorite productions to be a part of here at NW have been “Next to Normal” and “The Curious Incident of the

Dog in the Nighttime.”

Dr. Robert Hubbard directed “Next to Normal,” a musical, and Hayes loved having Dr. Hubbard as a director and working with him.

“That show was important for this community. It was important in my life,” said Hayes.

When it came to “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime,” Hayes loved being a part of the ensemble for that show. “Beautiful show. Beautiful ensemble,” said Hayes.

Aside from acting, Hayes has also been involved in several other areas of NW’s theatre department. She has been a costume designer, director, playwright, stage manager and scenic designer.

Hayes has also worked alongside Karen Barker for Theatre Production Ensemble as well as dabbling in managing social media for the theatre department and designing some posters to promote productions.

“I literally live here,” said Hayes in reference to the DeWitt Theatre Arts Center.

The department’s mantra is “To the King,” and Hayes holds this close to her heart. The mantra isn’t just something the professors have the theater students say before



PHOTO BY KILEY MEEDER
Corrie Hayes has been an integral part of the theatre department during her time at NW.

taking the stage, it’s something they live out.

“The professors are what makes this department amazing,” said Hayes.

Hayes has several memories from her time in NW’s theatre department, but one of her favorite memories comes from her senior seminar trip to Chicago with Karen Barker. Hayes

and the rest of the class spent one evening walking along Navy Pier after seeing “Hamlet.” They listened to music and danced while admiring the sights of Chicago.

After graduation, Hayes plans to move to Chicago in order to pursue a career in acting. She hopes she will be able to find a job in the arts

administration field so that she will still have time to audition for productions.

A piece of advice Hayes would like to leave with the underclassmen of the theatre department is to love each other. “This work is not worth it and you won’t learn if you don’t love each other along the way.”

Reverse culture shock causes students to think

STUDENTS REFLECT ON TIME ABROAD

BAILEY BANWART
SOCIAL WORK

One of the best things about Northwestern is its Global Education program. Students have the opportunity to visit beautiful new countries and experience culture in a new and exciting place. Those who traveled abroad last semester have returned to NW’s campus to find things looking just a bit different now.

Senior psychology major Elissa O’Dell traveled to Romania last semester, staying in a smaller town called Lupeni. Throughout her journey in Romania, she met some amazing people. One 15-year-old girl, Alee, made a lasting impact on her. O’Dell met Alee at a youth rock climbing gym that she was working at during her time in Romania, she learned a lot from Alee including how to climb and more about the daily life of a Romanian teenager.

“The grace she had for me as a foreigner who could hardly speak the native language was such a blessing and I hope to stay in touch with

her for many years to come”, she recalled.

O’Dell’s favorite memory was celebrating her 21st birthday in Romania. “On my birthday, we decided to take a hiking trip up one of the mountains, which turned out to be an extremely challenging hike, and then slept in a cave looking over the valley.” She said it was incredibly beautiful and couldn’t have asked for a better way to celebrate.

As O’Dell said, adjusting back to life in the States has had its “ups and downs.” She says it’s been difficult reconnecting with friends after being away from campus and having such different fall semester experiences. However, she was excited to get back and begin building these bridges again. Perhaps even more drastic of a change for O’Dell was in the impact on her world view since her time in Romania.

“There have been some changes in the way that I view the world,” said O’Dell. “I can no longer sit back and be oblivious to what is going on around the world. Now that I’ve experienced new perspectives, I will never be satisfied with ignorance in these subjects again; these places have a face now and I

care too much”.

She said that she notices now just how much we all have left to learn about the world.

Senior political science major Emma Van Drie spent her fall semester in Amman, Jordan. Van Drie traveled all over during her semester, visiting places like Palestine, Israel, Tunisia and Egypt. Van Drie said her favorite memory was working at a church in Jordan that employs refugees who cannot get work permits, she worked copy editing the stories of Syrian and Iraqi refugees. “Hearing their stories everyday was so powerful,” she reflected. She also had the opportunity to get to know people within the church and a child from Iraq that attended school there.

Van Drie has been adjusting to life in the States pretty well. Although there are a lot of thing she misses about her time abroad, she says her experience in the Middle East has given her more direction in what she wants to do with her life.

One thing she notices now that she didn’t before is just how much of life is outside our control. She said, “One of the most significant parts of Arab culture is the role of fate and faith in a great-



PHOTO BY KILEY MEEDER
Jori Steenhoek (left) and Elissa O’Dell (right) study in the Learning Commons.

er power that controls our circumstances. ‘Inshallah’ (God-willing) was a phrase I heard often.” She is now constantly reminded of just how much is outside her own hands and recognizes much more of God’s sovereignty.

Van Drie says if she could bring anything from her time in the Middle East back with her, it would be the Arab sense of hospitality, as she says it was “unmatched.” “It was a beautifully loving and welcoming place, and peo-

ple were always generously inviting you into their home and giving you endless cups of tea and coffee. I strive to offer people tea as much as my Jordanian friends and make people feel honored and welcomed.”

Unsung Heroes: Nora Verburg

BEHIND-THE-SCENES MOM

SURESH PORTILLO
SPANISH TRANSLATION

The DeWitt Music Hall – we might go in to use the restroom or grab a drink of water before chapel starts, or maybe we pay it a visit when we are wanting to jam out in a practice room, or perhaps in the case of many residents of Hospers Hall and its visitors, we pass through it to avoid freezing on our way to and from the DeWitt Learning Commons. Many who pass through might not realize what goes on behind the walls of the DeWitt Music Hall.

This building houses music professors and instructors as well as people involved in activities like orchestra, choir, band and ensembles. But just as a hall can be easily overlooked in our daily walks through campus so can integral people in different departments. One such indispensable person working behind the scenes is our heroine for this latest issue of *Unsung Heroes*: music department administrative assistant, Nora Verburg.

Have you ever wondered who typed up the program for the concert or recital you went to? Nora. Music students, do you know who processes your scholar-

ships? Nora. Who manages the music department’s finances? Nora, and she does so much more.

She oversees the movements in the building’s rooms, keeps music majors’ and minors’ records, maintains contact with 20 adjunct faculty and still has the time to occasionally serve as an accompanist for the A Cappella choir. Not only that, but she has been working hard in the Music Hall since the fall of 2001.

She is, without a doubt, as student Colin Jorde describes, a “behind-the-scenes mom” – to which the room full of other music students instantly agreed.

This comes as no surprise given that before entering this position at her alma mater, she dedicated eight years to being a stay-at-home mom. And, as all mothers are to be described, she is said to be a “big blessing” to the department, being “organized and nice all the time,” in the words of Ashlynn Anderson and Lauren Johnson, respectively.

Even I, who do not actively participate in the music ensembles present on campus, have had the opportunity to experience Nora’s hospitality when I was asked to search for something in the building and could not find the way. Instead of simply instructing

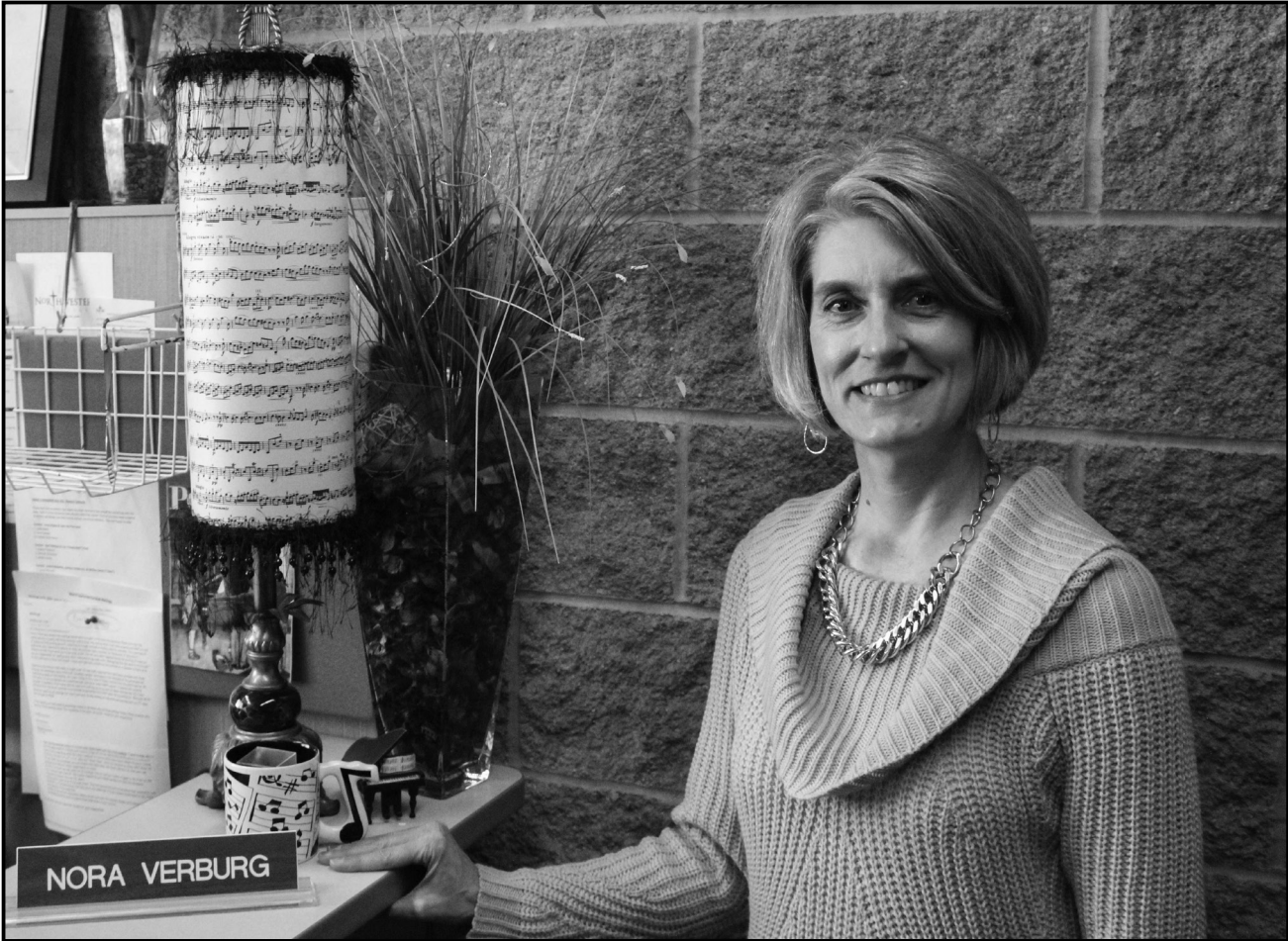


PHOTO BY ABIGAIL MOODY
Nora Verburg, the music department administrative assistant, has become a “behind-the-scenes mom” to students on campus as she cares for them and is always willing to help them out.

me of where to go and find it, Nora stepped away from her desk and guided me towards the item.

Her helpfulness is evident to all music students, as Libby Ven Huizen said, “Nora can be counted on to help you out with anything and give you a smile.”

When the moment of applying for an administrative position presented itself,

Nora was already enticed by the mere job description of her current position – a role that has combined her love for music, her organizational skills and her desire to help others. She’s not someone who would like to repeat the same patterns in her daily work schedule, and her favorite part about her current job is that it doesn’t.

“With this job, no day is

the same,” Nora said.

Obviously, all the students involved in the musical activities that occur in the Music Hall get the chance to witness Nora’s kindness, helpfulness and warmth with more frequency; however, anyone is welcome to stop by the music building and experience this first-hand.

So let’s give it up for the mom, the blessing, the

woman who “plays a mean piano” and “keeps the music department running like a well-oiled machine,” Nora Verburg.

Also, to those of you out there who have ever walked through the music building on different occasions and wondered where the basket of delicious apples comes from, they are graciously provided by - you guessed it - Nora.

Culture in the residence halls

FROM PAGE 1

Though it appears calm to outsiders, life in Fern is exciting, goofy and filled with adventures.

Hospers Hall is typically viewed as the wacky boys’ dorm where all the non-athletes live, but in reality, it is a hall that prides itself on creating a place for every resident to be himself. RD Michael Simmelink says Hospers works hard to uphold its pillars of hospitality, humility and respect. Along with these pillars and the dorm’s unique emphasis on community come a great variety of dorm events and traditions. From the Cardboard and Duct Tape Battle to Fruit Smash to The Great Sit, each tradition offers residents a chance to get to know each other more, get out of their comfort zones

and have fun. Filled with goofy guys who love to mess around and dive deep into life together, Hospers really is a place for everyone to be completely himself.

North Suites is generally thought of as the preppy boys’ dorm, but it is really filled with great guys who care for each other and work to start new traditions across campus. Things like baseball heckling and North Suites movie nights are now common events for the guys of North to enjoy, and they create a fun type of community for all to participate in. In addition to fun traditions like these, the guys of North can also enjoy a dorm life focused on celebrating differences and bringing people together.

“I love how I am able to see a wide variety of interests and ways of thinking,” said RA



PHOTO COURTESY OF NW MARCOMM
While there may be stereotypes about students living in certain dorms, NW residence halls still offer their own sense of community.

Ben Henker.

With such a great variety of people living together, life in North Suites is always new and exciting.

Stegenga Hall – or Steg, as it’s called – is often seen as the closed-off, sports dorm of the female residence halls, but while there is a great

number of athletes who live in the building, there is much more than that to life in Steg.

“Each lady is as unique as the next,” RA Makayla Bjork said. “Which makes the community of Steg so exciting because we have such a beautiful mix of people.”

Steg offers its ladies a

space to be themselves and grow together, and fun events like Steggy Keggy and Steggy Snow Angels only add to the excitement and wonder that comes with living in Steg. Regardless of what wing you’re on, there are always open doors to be found and good conversations to be

had in Steg.

Though each Northwestern residence hall has its own unique type of community and its own set of jokes, traditions and memories, each one offers a place for students to dive into dorm life and be fully known.

NW’s new Living Learning Community

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP HOUSE

CAMBER HERRIG
PUBLIC RELATIONS

A new housing option will be available to women in the upcoming school year. Vanderhill Cottage will be run by Lindsay Hubbell, the resident director of Fern Smith Hall. It will house six to 10 female students.

A series of events allowed for the opening of this new addition to residence life. Currently, Kendall Stanislav and his family live there. Stanislav was the on-campus apartment RD and transitioned into his new role of director of experiential education in the Compass Center. Next fall, Hubbell will become the RD of the apartments, along with the new Living Learning Community.

Conversations regarding the LLC began in October when Hubbell presented the idea to dean of resident life Marlon Haverdink. Hubbell learned about LLCs during her time in graduate school. Ever since her arrival at Northwestern, she has kept the idea of an LLC in the back of her mind, and the opportu-

nity arose when the Vanderhill Cottage opened up.

An LLC can have multiple themes. Big universities have several, each having their own individual focus: ethnicity studies, first-generation college students, gender and sexuality, sustainability, global health and technology.

Hubbell’s vision for the LLC lies within Women in Leadership.

“The LLC provides me an opportunity to pursue my passions,” Hubbell said. “But more importantly it provides a space for a small cohort of women to be intentionally mentored so that they will leave NW as confident and prepared women in their work fields, relationships and for the Kingdom of God.”

Women living in the home will also have a certain curriculum they will complete during the year. While texts have not been finalized, possible texts include “Nothing to Prove” by Jennie Allen, “Life Together” by Dietrich Bonhoeffer and “Daring Greatly” by Brené Brown. Each week, the women will read a chapter from a selective text and hold a house meeting over the content.

Another factor to living in

the home is mentorship. Each woman will receive a first-year female to mentor through freshmen year. The LLC home will also emphasize hospitality by hosting house events and Women in Leadership events, further developing event-management skills.

Along with hospitality, the home will emphasize leadership, which will be developed through hosting events, developing communication skills and having hands-on experience with leading. The last learning objective lies within identity and finding what role they can play in the world.

“I would hope that the women will learn more about themselves, the way in which God has uniquely gifted them and how their gifts are needed in this world,” dean of student life Julie Elliott said. “The reality is that the women on our campus are already in many leadership roles and are excelling in many ways, but institutional surveys show that they do not recognize themselves as leaders. That grieves me. I want them to embrace their gifts and offer them up to God and others, not hide or minimize their gifts because they are women.”

Vanderhill Cottage will



PHOTO BY ABIGAIL MOODY

The new Living Learning Community will help women on campus grow both in their faith and leadership skills.

cost the same as apartment living: \$10,100 a year with the opportunity to use the 10-meals-a-week plan to reduce the cost by \$600. The cottage comes with beds, dressers, closets, basement storage, a study room furnished with desks, large

kitchen, laundry, two bathrooms, a porch and a balcony.

The women wishing to apply must be current freshmen through juniors, have a GPA higher than 2.5 and have a desire to know more about community and Christ. Applications are open online through

March 6. A 30-minute interview of all applicants will take place from Wednesday, March 11 through Friday, March 13. Sign-ups for an interview time are in the Student Life Office with the interviews taking place in Hubbell’s office in Fern.

Barkers retire

FROM PAGE 1

“Being directed by Jeff has made me figure out how to follow my instincts, how to be part of an ensemble and how to step out of my comfort zone and take ownership of roles I don’t feel qualified for,” said Karsten Garwood, who has worked with Jeff in several productions.

While the Barkers have brought meaning to and changed the lives of their students, the roles have also been switched.

“We’ve had so many students who have become lifetime friends,” Jeff said.

These maintained connections have enabled the Barkers to watch their students grow and flourish in their careers.

“I find it a remarkable punctuation that in my final year at NW I got to see one of my students on Broadway: Cora Vander Broek, a student early in our time here. It felt like I’d come full circle,” Karen said.

One of Karen and Jeff’s legacies on the theatre department will be the mantra, “To the King! To the Restoration!” which has its origins in a trilogy of books titled Tales of the Kingdom. Karen and Jeff

read the stories before arriving at NW, and they adopted it as a call-and-response in their family whenever someone left the house. Eventually the phrase found its way into NW’s theatre program and has now become the lifeblood of the department.

Before every performance and after the closing of every show, students and staff will yell the phrase as loudly as they can with utterly joyous grins on their faces. Getting a “To the King” tattoo is so commonplace among theatre majors that it could be considered

a degree requirement.

There is a bit of irony in the fact that this phrase was birthed as a casual, impermanent farewell and now those who popularized it are leaving NW, but there are no other words so soaked in love, joy and thankfulness that students could impart upon the Barkers in light of their departure. Through this phrase, students honor their beloved friends’ past while also celebrating their excellent future work in the name of our Savior.

So, Karen, Jeff: To the King!



PHOTO COURTESY OF NW MARCOMM
Jeff and Karen Barker have impacted many students while working on campus.

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Ask Josh

with Joshua Richard Dahl



If pigs could fly, would we have pork wings instead of chicken wings?

- Hungry in Hospers

Oh heck ya. Well, I don't think we'd get rid of chicken wings...but just have to add pork wings to the menu. I, personally, prefer a nice juicy pork tenderloin over a chicken breast. Ha, imagine trying to round up those pigs though.

If you had to choose to drink water through your nose of through your ears, which would you choose?

- Dehydrated in DeWitt

What is up with you guys and trying to change the way my body works? For the sake of this column, however, I would rather drink through my nose. Working at the swimming pool, I've had quite a bit of water go up my nose. That said, if it's pop, I would have to go with ears. Absolutely hate getting pop up my nose.

Would you rather have to run a mile in high heels or walk up 5 flights of stairs in concrete shoes?

- Styling in Steg

Uhh neither? I suppose it depended on the type of heel. Is it a stiletto? Gosh, that would be awful. But if they were some pretty bad a** pumps or ankle booties, I would one hundred percent pick those.

What is the most useless thing you can do?

- Random in Ramaker

This might gross some of you out but I can touch my uvula with my tongue. Totally useless but comes in handy if I'm bored in class. Which hardly ever happens.

Fine arts to fine strife



Becca Jackson
Public Relations

It was my freshman year when I first recognized the divide between the music and theatre departments on Northwestern's campus. I had just performed for the first time with the symphonic band and the feeling of exhilaration swept over me. It felt so good to perform for the first time with my new ensemble, but I couldn't shake the sadness that swept over me that night as well. A sadness that stemmed from my inability take part in the fall show Northwestern puts on.

I had previously enjoyed the ability to participate in choir, band and theater and received a rush of adrenaline from participating in each of those activities. I was disappointed to learn, upon my arrival, that I had to choose a department and there wouldn't be much crossover.

I'm not saying I haven't enjoyed my time

in the symphonic band, I love my band family dearly and the opportunity to create music for God's glory, but I also find great joy among my theatrical peers. My love for stage management and performing has been cut short because our departments don't correlate.

In my three years on campus, I've watched the same sadness I've experienced sweep over many other music and theater students. Some words I hear from both departments are:

"Man, I wish the show and our concert didn't overlap so I could help/participate in the show."

"Wow, I miss playing clarinet, but band overlaps with TPE and I'm on scholarship."

"I really wanted to go support one of my best friends tonight, so they wouldn't be as nervous but I have to perform."

I understand there are choices to be made when you enter college and choosing theatre or music is one of them, but this doesn't just affect the ability to participate. Each year the music department pours their heart out into our first performance at the Homecoming concert and I love seeing theater professors in the audience who come to support, but every year I hear the same disappointing statement from many of my theater peers that they're unable to come to support us because of their opening show. In the same way, I must repeat

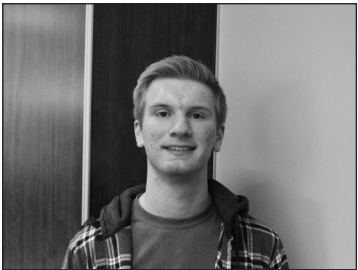
that statement and say that I can't be there to support them and ease their high-strung nerves for their opening night.

This has taken a toll on the students much more than has been recognized. The rift doesn't exist solely in the performances, the students who have had to make the splitting decision have chosen to rationalize their decision by bashing the other department as a coping mechanism. Anger is a bodyguard to our most vulnerable emotions, the same emotions that come out when something has been removed from our lives that was deeply loved.

I grew up with theater and music, so it felt like part of my heart and identity was being ripped out when I was told to pick one. One Acts are great, but to miss being directed by outstanding professors because of varying reasons breaks my heart. I hope to represent the fine arts industry through public relations after graduation, but my resume pales in comparison to those who have had the opportunity to dip their toe in everything.

Our departments hold brilliant professors with great knowledge and expertise, who care deeply for their students. It's my sincerest hope that this opens the door for more conversation, and we can come together to glorify God as one body through our support for our respective departments. To the King!

Trump is corrupting Christianity



Caleb Arnett
Political Science

When November 2020 comes, millions of white, evangelical Christians will sit down in a voting booth and fill in the bubble for Donald Trump. It will be a massive rejection of the teachings of their own Savior, and no one will be surprised. It will be a dark spot in the history of Christian ethics.

There is no reason to mince words: a vote for Donald Trump stands in direct conflict with the Christian faith. We have justified our support for fringe candidates by citing the capacity for a range of political beliefs within Christianity; and that's mostly true. The Bible itself is a story ripe with political diversity, and it certainly does not espouse a particular ideology. There's room for both Democrats and Republicans in the Kingdom. However, this does not mean we are allowed to stretch the proverbial "big tent" of Christianity to cover false doctrine. We do not get to hate our neighbors and still claim to be faithful to true Christian doctrine. We do not get

to stand with a president who objectifies, assaults and cheats on women and claim we are faithful to a biblical sexual ethic. We do not get to vote for someone to belittle human life while believing everyone is made in the image of God.

We do not wipe our hands as Christians by simply hiring a President to hate our enemies for us. Our duty as citizens of Heaven extends even beyond our own actions, to the people we encourage and enable. When we vote for Donald Trump, or even turn a blind eye to the verbal abuse that radiates from the White House, we are failing our calling just as much as if we were to inflict the abuse ourselves.

Yes, all human beings are sinful and have flaws. But that does not even begin to justify giving the most influential platform on the planet to a man who claims he does not need forgiveness for those flaws, let alone admit he has them.

For those who say Trump's policies make up for his moral short fallings, I'll give you this. Augustine believed that a society was not defined by the laws it created, but rather by what the society worshipped. In other words, our national laws mean nothing if we do not address the lack of value in human life in our culture. Fighting cancer with cancer will not stop our moral decay.

We cannot in good faith establish abortion laws while continuing to feed the very culture that makes abortion so

prevalent. It will accomplish nothing in the long term. A president who disregards the inherent beauty of every single living being is, in reality, no more of an ally to the pro-life movement than his pro-choice counterparts. The pro-life movement is a beautiful part of Christian political activism, and must remain so, but we must heed the words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 13 if we ever want to experience the realization of the justice we so desperately seek.

The political implications in not voting for Trump for lifelong Republicans is large, I understand that. But the faith implications are larger. The world looks at Trump and sees what Christianity has become and wants no part of it. Our MAGA hats are singlehandedly destroying our ability to relate to and evangelize those who disagree with us. No party even comes close to fully representing Christian morality but ignoring the lack of human decency at the head of the Republican Party because the Democrats "are the same" (they aren't) is only leading to our own destruction.

It's time to stop stretching the tent. It's time to stand up for love, for truth, even if it means sacrificing your own political preferences. The integrity of our faith is on the line. Will we restore the teachings of Jesus? Or will Christianity fall into the hands of Trump? It's up to us.

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Respectfully,
the Beacon staff

Wrestling competes in GPAC Championships

THREE NORTHWESTERN
WRESTLERS TO COMPETE
AT NATIONALS

REID SEELHAMMER
BUSINESS ADMIN

The Raiders traveled to Morningside College last weekend for the GPAC Championships and national-qualifying meet. While Northwestern has battled injuries this season and was missing a few of their upperclassman, the underclassman showed up and set the tone for the tournament.

Big tournaments from senior Andrew Null, senior Dante Preciado and freshman Luke Jenness resulted in Raider individual GPAC Champion titles on Saturday, Feb. 22. The Raiders also finished third as a team. Every Raider earned a team point on the day and the Raiders only trailed Briar Cliff and Champion, Concordia, on

the day. Null, Preciado and Jenness all punched their ticket to the National Tournament with their individual tournament wins. NW had eight out of 12 wrestlers place on the day and NW finished with 109 points, just 0.5 points above host Morningside.

“Our young team really rose up this weekend,” said head coach Rik Dahl. “To have three champions and eight placers was a huge testament to the work these guys have been putting in and the way they have loved the process this season. These guys believed in their training and believed in each other. It was fun to watch. All 12 guys scored points, so it was a true team accomplishment.”

Null’s performance this weekend puts him at 10th for all-time wins in Raider history. Additionally, he is only the third person in program history to have

won the conference title three times. Null secured his 28th win by pin fall, making that 28 total for his career and moving him to tie for fifth in program history.

“I see this postseason as a farewell tour and every person I wrestle is an obstacle,” Null said. “It was cool to win three regional titles, but the goal is to compete well at the National Tournament, and I want to keep the momentum rolling.”

Also taking place during the National Tournament, senior Dylan Costello will be nominated as NW’s Champion of Character.

“I’m thankful for being recognized by my team and I look forward to watching them compete at Nationals,” Costello said.

Team manager, Joshua Dahl was happy with the day’s performances, as well.

“I was really impressed with how our team

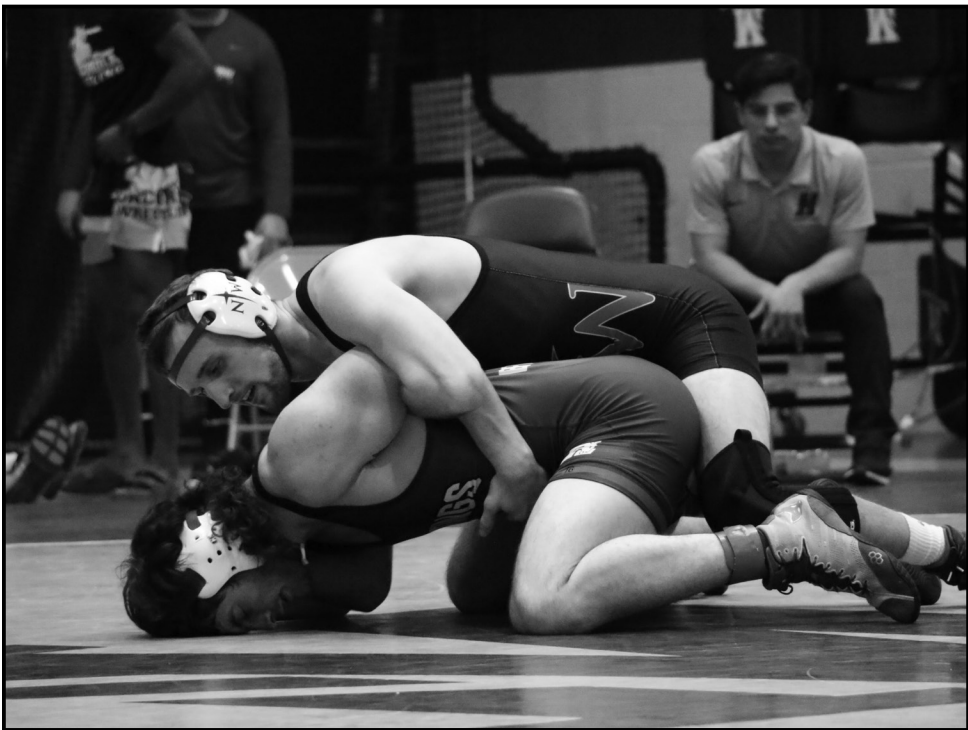


PHOTO COURTESY OF NW MARCOMM
Sophomore Blake Pomajzl runs a chicken wing.

competed. We’ve been working hard all season, and we had quite a few main

guys not able to compete. Our underclassmen really stepped up,” Dahl said.

The Raider trio will compete in Park City, Kansas, on March 6 and 7.

Raider baseball starts spring season strong

VOGEL’S GRAND SLAM
LEADS TO NW GAME
TWO VICTORY

DEREK JANZEN
ACCOUNTING

Northwestern’s men’s baseball team had a strong showing against Kansas Wesleyan this past Saturday, Feb. 22, moving to 3-5 on the season. After losing game one in the double-header, the Red Raiders rallied back in game two to take the victory.

The Raiders fell behind 8-0 after two innings in a 12-6 game one loss. They had just one hit after four innings but started coming back in the fifth inning, scoring four runs on three hits and an error that cut the lead in half, 8-4.

Freshman Jason Snyder led the inning with a double and came

around to score on a ball hit by sophomore Evan Oleson. Sophomore Noa Vogel then came up and hit a two-out, three-run home run, scoring both Oleson and junior Sutton Derr.

The team plated two more runs in the seventh innings after an Oleson single, a double by freshman Kip Cullinan and a Kansas Wesleyan error. Cullinan led head coach Brian Wede’s squad at the plate, going two-of-four with a run scored and RBI. Vogel went one-of-four with three RBI and Derr, Olesen, Snyder, freshman Grant Christy and senior Drew Schutt all had one hit each.

The second game was led by Vogel’s one-out grand slam in the Raider’s four-run first inning of their 9-6 game two win.

Derr and Oleson led off the game with back-to-back singles and a walk to Cullinan loaded

the bases. Following a strikeout, Vogel drove a 3-2 pitch over the fence to put NW up 4-0.

Kansas Wesleyan threatened NW’s lead in the bottom of the first with three runs, but the Raiders were able to pull away with two runs in the third and two more in the fifth.

The Raiders totaled 12 hits and continued to use the long ball to fuel their offense, hitting four more home runs. Vogel (three-of-four, 3 runs, 4 RBIs), Derr (two-of-four, run) and senior Josh Fakkema (two-of-two, HR, 2 RBI) were the leaders at the plate. Olesen (2-0) earned his second win in as many starts, giving up eight hits, five runs in 4.2 innings. Freshman Brady Nicolet allowed one run in 1.1 innings and sophomore Ryan Reynolds pitched a scoreless seventh inning to earn his second save.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NW MARCOMM
Sophomore Evan Olesen winds up to pitch.

Next up for the Raiders is a College on Monday, March 2 at match-up against Presentation 10a.m. at home.

Raiders wrap up regular season 6th in GPAC

NW WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
FINISHES REGULAR SEASON
COMPETITION

TREY HARMS
SPANISH

Northwestern women’s basketball finished out the regular season the week of February 17, continuing their hot streak with a strong road win against Dakota Wesleyan before falling at home to Morningside on senior day.

Junior Sammy Blum led the Raiders in scoring again, with game-highs of 23 and 26, respectively, complemented by an incredible display from downtown as she finished a combined 12-of-15 from the three-point range.

The Raider victory on Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 13th-ranked Dakota Wesleyan saw the Raiders pick up their first win in five years at the Corn Palace. NW jumped out to an

early lead behind Blum’s shooting and then used a balanced scoring attack to hold off the Tigers in front of nearly 3,000 fans.

Senior Bre Schuiteman followed Blum in double figures with 12 points, coming in clutch at the end of both the third and fourth quarters to put the game away for NW. Junior Alexis Toering and freshman Emilee Danner chipped in eight points apiece as well.

NW faced ninth-ranked Morningside at home on Saturday, Feb. 22, looking to close out the regular season with a win. NW started out strong from the floor, cashing in on all their first five three-pointers, and shooting 8-of-8 from the line in the first half. It was a back and forth battle as they entered the half trailing by five, 37-42.

A strong third quarter tied the game back up and the Raiders found them in a position to pull off another upset heading into the fourth. Three-point shooting proved to be the deciding

factor as the Mustangs knocked down five threes in four minutes to pull away for the victory, winning by a score of 78-68. Blum ended with 26 points, followed by Toering with 11 and junior Devyn Kemble with eight.

The loss kept NW at sixth in the conference standings and pitted them in yet another matchup with Morningside on Wednesday, Feb. 26, this time in the quarterfinals of the GPAC playoffs.

It was a tough start for the Raiders in Sioux City, but a 14-0 run in the second quarter helped them grab the lead before halftime. Trailing by six entering the final frame, NW stormed back and found the game headed to overtime. The Mustangs struck first, however, and managed to hold that lead to escape with a 90-87 (overtime) victory. The Raiders (17-11) now wait for the selection show on Wednesday, March 4 to see if they receive an at-large bid to the National Tournament the following week.



PHOTO COURESTY OF NW MARCOMM
Alexis Toering scored eleven points in the Feb. 22 game.

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160 from NW participate in SSPs

Northwestern College will send 13 teams of students led by faculty and staff advisers on service trips across the United States and to three international destinations. This year’s annual Spring Service Partnerships (SSP) are scheduled for Feb. 29 through March 9. More than 160 participants will travel to eight states, Ireland, Mexico and the Netherlands. A new SSP destination is Waco, Texas, where 30 ministries operate under the Mission Waco umbrella. While living and working in north Waco neighborhoods, students will provide manual labor in the mornings, lead a street camp for kids in the afternoon and worship at a church for the homeless known as the Church Under the Bridge, which began under an Interstate 35 bridge. For a second consecutive year, NW is partnering with Youthfront in Croc, Mexico. There the college’s students will serve alongside local leadership, working with youth in an after-school program or through vacation Bible school or camp-like activities. Other international destinations include Ireland, where students will partner with Dublin Christian Mission, a ministry that helps people who are

homeless and the Netherlands, where students will stay and serve at two Christian youth hostels in Amsterdam, sharing their faith with guests from around the world. The rest of the teams in the U.S. are partnering with ministries in locations ranging from the East to West Coast and from Minnesota to Texas. In Florida, NW students will volunteer in local schools and after-school programs in Jacksonville. In California, they’ll join with Emmanuel Reformed Church in Paramount to paint homes, provide manual labor and build relationships in the community of Compton. Two SSP teams will serve in and learn about Native American communities. Those going to the Grand Portage Indian Reservation in Minnesota will help with a food pantry, spend time with a local church youth group and complete work projects at a wilderness camp. Another team will travel to the Mescalero Apache Reservation in New Mexico, where they will participate in the youth and children’s programs of Mescalero Reformed Church and do painting and manual labor. Another two teams will travel to Louisiana. One group of students will provide tutoring

and make neighborhood improvements in Opelousas, while the football team is sending 23 student-athletes to New Orleans to lead football camps for youth and do manual labor. In Texas, in addition to the Mission Waco team, NW students will serve in Lindale at Calvary Commission, a residential and educational center for ex-convicts. Other Northwestern students will partner with Youthfront and a Hispanic congregation in Kansas City to support after-school programs, a neighborhood farm and preparations for a summer camp. And a final team will work with Mile High Ministries in Denver, where they will gain urban cross-cultural experience with poverty and homelessness. SSP team members raise their own travel funds through their individual families, friends and churches, and through fundraisers on campus and in the community. NW College’s short-term mission programs bear the Standards of Excellence in Short-Term Missions (SOE) seal, ensuring that participating organizations get mission teams that are of high quality. SOE standards include adequate pre-trip training and resources, as well as consistent post-trip follow-up and accountability.

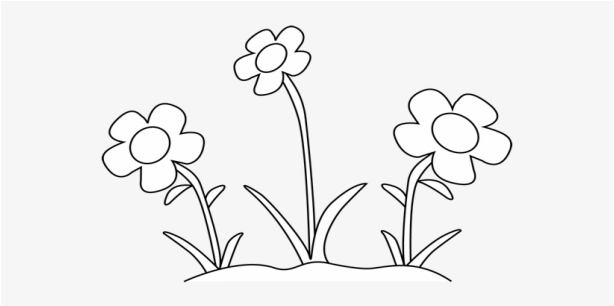
Events:

Friday, Feb. 28
10:05 a.m. – Prayer service in Christ Chapel.
8 p.m. – Residence halls close for Spring Break.

Saturday, Feb. 29-Tuesday, March 10
A cappella Choir Tour around Chicago area.

Monday, March 9
12 p.m. – Residence halls open.

Wednesday, March 11
Classes resume.



Happy spring break, everyone!

“I have found that there ain’t no surer way to find out whether you like people or hate them than to travel with them.”
-Mark Twain

Don’t forget that no matter where you may be off to this spring break, Raiders stand out.

Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
40° 27°	56° 31°	51° 27°	39° 28°	49° 30°	45° 27°	45° 27°



Photo contest first place winner: Testing, testing 1, 2, 3: Sarah Gelberg

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